

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 10 and 12 are amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 3, 10 and 12 can be found at least in Figs. 3A-3C and the corresponding disclosure in the specification. No new matter is added.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 10, 13, 15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Mukoyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,831,659) in view of Botchy (*C Magazine*; "Speed-up Techniques and Thinking Routine for 3D Games Found Source Code of a 3D Game 'Doom'"); and claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Mukoyama in view of Botchy and in further view of Nakagawa (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0135603). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Mukoyama, Botchy and Nakagawa, alone or in a permissible combination, do not teach or render obvious every claimed feature of independent claims 1, 3, 10 and 12. None of these references teach or render obvious "each of the part objects having a three-dimensional projecting portion extending at least in a direction perpendicular to a display surface on which an image is drawn," as recited in independent claim 1 and as similarly recited in independent claims 3, 10 and 12 (emphasis added).

The Office Action asserts that the display elements P of Mukoyama correspond to the claimed part objects of independent claims 1, 3, 10 and 12 (see Office Action, page 3). The Office Action further asserts that, although these display elements P are merely shaped like planes with no thickness, "the projection objects are in a three-dimensional space and [thus] have three-dimensions" (see Office Action, page 12). However, independent claims 1, 3, 10 and 12 have been amended to recite that the part objects have a three dimensional projecting portion extending at least in a direction perpendicular to the display surface. As shown in Fig. 14 of Mukoyama, the display elements P have no projecting portion, much less a three

dimensional projecting portion. Thus, Mukoyama does not disclose (perhaps most importantly), a three dimensional projecting portion extending in a direction perpendicular to a display surface. As best the Applicants can tell, and based on the several personal interviews with the Examiner, the image drawn on the flat display element P is being interpreted as the projecting portion, which clearly does not extend in a direction perpendicular to the display surface of the display element P on which it is drawn (see Fig. 14 of Mukoyama). Therefore, Mukoyama does not teach "each of the part objects having a three-dimensional projecting portion extending at least in a direction perpendicular to a display surface on which an image is drawn," as recited in independent claim 1 and as similarly recited in independent claims 3, 10 and 12 (emphasis added).

Further, the present invention provides advantages over the method disclosed in Mukoyama. Because the present invention involves three-dimensional part objects, the relationship between the part objects forming, for example, trees, is more natural than the planar geometry disclosed in Mukoyama. The inversion process of the present invention is thus less noticeable than that disclosed in Mukoyama. Therefore, the structure, function and capabilities of the present invention are patentably distinct from that disclosed in Mukoyama.

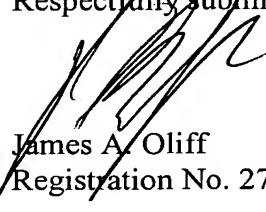
Botchy and Nakagawa do not remedy the above-described deficiencies of Mukoyama.

Therefore, for at least these reasons, independent claims 1, 3, 10 and 12 are patentable over the above-applied references. Claims 2, 4-9, 11 and 13-18, which variously depend from claims 1, 3, 10 and 12, are also patentable over the applied references for at least their dependency on the independent claims, as well as for the additional features they recite. Applicants thus respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Attachment:

Request for Continued Examination

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